

**WELLINGBOROUGH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
1903.**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

BY

FRED H. MORRIS, M.D.,

FEL. ROYAL INST. PUBLIC HEALTH.

RUSHDEN :

CHAS. CROSS, PRINTER, "ECHO" OFFICE.

Wellingborough Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the year ending December 31st, 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the honour of presenting my annual report, which I shall do as heretofore.

The Wellingborough Rural District consists of three sub-divisions, with an estimated population of 13,453, of which Earls Barton district contains 8,522, Finedon 2,357, and Higham Ferrers 2,574.

Births.

The registered births have been 333 for the whole district,—Earls Barton being 214, Finedon 66, and Higham Ferrers 53. This gives a birth-rate of 24·75 for the whole district, or 25·11 for Earls Barton, 28·001 for Finedon, and 20·59 for Higham Ferrers.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered have been 158 for the whole district—99 for Earls Barton, 38 for Finedon, and 21 for Higham Ferrers. This gives a death-rate per 1,000 of 11·74 for the whole district, or 11·61 for Earls Barton, 16·12 for Finedon, and 8·15 for Higham Ferrers. This must be considered favourable, the average death-rate for England and Wales being 15·4 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality has been 117·11 per 1,000 births,—or 130·84 for Earls Barton, 106·06 for Finedon, and 75·47 for Higham Ferrers, the average for England and Wales being 132 per 1,000.

Zymotic Diseases.

There have been 67 cases of infectious diseases notified—40 in the Earls Barton district, 4 in the Finedon, and 23 in the Higham Ferrers.

Small Pox.—No case has been reported. Vaccination has been carried out more efficiently, with the exception of Great Doddington (in the Finedon district), where only one child has been vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator.

Scarlet Fever.—Thirty-two cases of scarlet fever have been reported—15 in the Earls Barton district, one in the Finedon district, and 16 in the Higham Ferrers district, with one death between the age of 5 and 15 years.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—No case has been reported in the whole district.

Measles (not notified).—One death has occurred, in the Finedon district.

Whooping Cough has caused four deaths—three under one year and one under five years, in the Earls Barton district.

Erysipelas.—Fourteen cases have been reported—seven in the Earls Barton district, 2 in the Finedon, and five in the Higham Ferrers districts, with no death.

Enteric Fever.—Twenty cases have been reported—17 in Earls Barton district, one in the Finedon, and two in the Higham Ferrers districts, with six deaths—four in the Earls Barton district, one in the Finedon, and one in the Higham Ferrers districts.

Enteritis has caused two deaths—one under one year, and one over 65 years, both in the Finedon district.

Puerperal Fever.—There has been one case of puerperal fever reported, between 25 and 65 years of age, in the Earls Barton district.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

Bronchitis has been responsible for nine deaths—Four in the Earls Barton district, three in the Finedon, and two in the Higham Ferrers districts—two under one year, one between 1 and 5 years, one between 5 and 15 years, three between 25 and 65 years, and two over 65 years of age.

Pneumonia has caused six deaths—one under five years, four between 25 and 65 years, and one over 65 years. Two were in the Earls Barton district, three in the Finedon, and one in the Higham Ferrers districts.

Phthisis has caused 12 deaths—eight in the Earls Barton, one in the Finedon, and three in the Higham Ferrers Districts, the respective ages being one under one year, two between 5 and 15, three between 15 and 25, and six between 25 and 65 years of age.

Other tubercular diseases have caused two deaths—one in the Earls Barton and one in the Finedon districts, one death being between 5 and 15 and one between 15 and 25 years of age.

Other disease of the respiratory organs has caused one death (over 65 years of age), in the Earls Barton district.

There has of late been a great deal of discussion on the prevention of Consumption, and Sanatoria have sprung up in all parts of the country for the treatment by the open-air method. This, however, is impossible for the poor and middle classes on account of the expense, requiring from £100 to £300 a year. These are for treatment. Prevention is quite another matter, and is to be obtained by attention to hygiene, suitable diet, early hours, and by leading a more natural and less excitable life. Until this is done, consumption will never be prevented.

Heart Disease

has been fatal in 18 cases—13 in the Earls Barton district, three in the Finedon, and two in the Higham Ferrers districts.

Cancer and Malignant Disease

caused 14 deaths—six in the Earls Barton, four in the Finedon, and four in the Higham Ferrers districts.

Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of Liver

have caused two deaths—one in the Finedon and one in the Higham Ferrers districts.

There have been three deaths from accidents—two in the Earls Barton, and one in the Finedon districts; and one suicide, in the Finedon district.

In May I received notice that three army blankets from South Africa had been sent to Ecton. I immediately went with your Inspector and examined them, found they were badly soiled, and had them destroyed at once.

Drainage.

The drainage of Mears Ashby, Wilby, and Isham are waiting the sanction of the Local Government Board.

The Cemetery at Bozeat is complete and ready for use.

The Sewage scheme at Little Harrowden is satisfactory, and an improved drainage at Great Harrowden has been carried out by Earl Fitzwilliam.

Irchester sewage scheme is nearing completion. Several flushing chambers have been constructed at New Barton, are used periodically, and are acting satisfactorily.

Water Supply.

Those villages requiring are under consideration by the Council.

Several samples of water throughout the district have been submitted to analysis. Those found polluted have been condemned, and the wells ordered to be closed.

Small Pox Hospital Site, Irchester.

A plot of land has been purchased by the Council, a well sunk, and a never failing supply of water found. This has been tested by Dr. Voelcker, County Analyst, who certifies the water to be wholesome and pure.

Dwelling Houses.

Several houses have been inspected, and were condemned and closed. Others have been put into habitable repair.

Factories and Workshops

have all been inspected at intervals and kept in a satisfactory condition. The workers whose families have been notified as suffering from infectious disease have been prohibited from taking in work at home.

During the months of May and June an epidemic of measles occurred at Earls Barton and Great Doddington, which necessitated the schools being closed for three weeks.

The low death-rate, 11.74 per 1,000, proves the sanitary condition of the district.

I have to tender my best thanks to your Inspector for assistance he has always courteously given me and the excellent manner in which he has performed his onerous duties. It has been a pleasure to work with him.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRED H. MORRIS, M.D.,

Fel. Royal Inst. Public Health.

Februray 11th, 1904.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
WELLINGBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

As Inspector of the Rural District of Wellingborough I beg to submit to you my report for the year ending 31st December, 1903.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year 67 notifications of cases of infectious disease have been received, viz., 33 cases of scarlet fever, 20 typhoid or enteric fever, and 14 erysipelas. All the dwellings were fumigated and cleansed throughout, and bedding and clothing destroyed whenever it was deemed necessary, for which compensation was given.

Table shewing cases of Infectious Disease in each Parish.

District.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.
Bozeat	0	1 (died) ...	1
Doddington	0	0	1
Earls Barton.....	2	9 (3 deaths)	3
Ecton	1	0	0
Little Harrowden...	0	1	0
Little Irchester.....	1	2 (1 death)	0
Irchester	15 (1 death)	0	6
Mears Ashby.....	11 (1 death)	0	0
Orlingbury.....	1	0	1
Wilby	1	0	1
Wollaston	1	7	1
	—	—	—
	33	20	14

It is satisfactory to learn that at Easton Maudit, Grendon, Isham, Strixton, Sywell, Great Harrowden, Hardwick, and Newton Bromshold not a single case has been reported to exist; at Great Doddington, Little Harrowden, and Ecton, only one case at each village.

Owing to an outbreak of measles at Great Doddington and Earls Barton the schools were closed for three weeks. They were cleaned throughout, after being disinfected, etc., before being re-opened.

Dwelling Houses.

Only nine new houses have been erected during the year, for which water certificates were granted. 31 dwellings have been cleaned and repaired; 13 dilapidated ones closed; four overcrowding cases and six filthy dwellings dealt with. Two families of gipsys were also removed from the road-side. They were living in tents and were in a filthy condition. I reported the case to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, who prosecuted. The men were sent to prison to terms of six months and two months, and the women and children removed to the Workhouse.

Foul Accumulations.

18 foul accumulations and several animals were removed, two pigsties closed, nine cesspits filled in and closets made into water closets or the pail system. Nine new closets were erected; 18 limewashed and put in repair; 7 w.c.'s which were blocked and defective have been cleaned and repaired and 18 receptacles provided. The scavenging throughout the district has been well attended to during the year.

Private Drains, &c.

27 blocked and defective drains were repaired and cleaned; 17 old drains were taken up and relaid with glazed socket pipes, gulleys being used in place of open gratings. In several cases inspection chambers were added. At Mears Ashby several of the street drains which were untrapped have been repaired and gulleys used. This work was done by order of the Council.

Water Supply.

At Earls Barton, Easton Maudit, Ecton, and Wilby there is an abundant supply of pure and wholesome water.

Owing to the abundance of rain during the year there has not been such a scarcity at Doddington, Little Harrowden, Little Irchester, Isham, Wollaston, Grendon and Mears Ashby, although many complaints have been received. 42 samples of water taken from wells have been tested by Dr. Morris, Medical Officer of Health, 12 of which were totally unfit for domestic use. Six wells have been closed; and in the case of the other six, after being cleaned out by improving the drainage and the crown of wells, etc., the water was fit for use.

Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milkshops

have been regularly inspected during the year. Extensive alterations and sanitary improvements and an improved water supply have been made at several of the farm premises. Only on one occasion did I find it necessary to call in the assistance of a veterinary surgeon to examine the cows. On another occasion when a cow was unwell it was removed from the herd altogether and the milk from her was not sold. In one case it was necessary to take proceedings against a cow-keeper, namely, Montagu Coles, of Little Harrowden. He was fined £2 and 6s. costs and prohibited from selling milk until his premises are put into a sanitary condition. Two wells on his property were ordered to be closed.

Slaughter Houses

have been regularly inspected and found on each visit to be well kept and clean.

South African Blankets.

On Sunday, May 26th, I received information from the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Morris, that a quantity of blankets had been purchased by an Ecton tradesman from a Peterborough firm. I went over at once, seized the blankets, which were smeared with blood and other filth, and brought them to Wellingborough. They were inspected by Dr. Morris, who instructed me to destroy them. They were immediately taken to the destructor and burned. Compensation was paid by the Council to the tradesman from whom they were seized.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

Home Work.—Much difficulty was experienced in getting some of the manufacturers to forward their list of outworkers. These should be forwarded on or before the 1st day of February and the 1st day of August each year. In one case proceedings were taken against Messrs. Smart Bros., shoe manufacturers, Wollaston, who were fined £2 and costs for failing to send in their list. The trade paper, *The Boot and Shoe Journal*, stated this to be the first case in the country. The total number employed as outworkers throughout the district is 1,284, viz., 863 men and 421 women. During 1902 the number was 1,440, viz., 930 men and 520 women, shewing a reduction of 157 men and 99 women employed. There has been no case of complaint for general cleanliness or overcrowding in any of the factories; and the conditions under which home work is done has improved. The workers always readily comply with any request I bring before them as to limewashing, etc., etc.

Bakehouses have been visited and inspected, and, with two exceptions, were well kept and clean. These two were attended to when the owner's attention was called to them.

Food and Drugs Act.

No seizure was made although periodical inspections were paid.

I have to thank the Council, the Medical Officer of Health, and the Clerk for the courtesy and kindness with which they have invariably received any matter I have brought before them.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE BAYES,

Sanitary Inspector.

24, Griffith-street, Rushden,

February 18th, 1904.